had increased from Rs. 1760 crores in 1983-84 to Rs. 1827 crores in 1984-85. This Ministry monitors the production of 87 essential bulk drugs which account for 80 per cent of the total production of bulk drugs in the country. In comparison with the year 1983-84, production of 61 bulk drugs registered an increase ranging from 2.3 per cent to 186.6 per cent in 1984-85. Decrease in production was less than 10 per cent in respect of 7 drugs. Production of other bulk drugs has been less because of various reasons including production being tailored to demand, drug obsolescence production problems, etc. The gap between demand and indigenous production was met by imports which are regulated under the Import and Export Policy.

Fertilizers companies in Joint Sector

510. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up four new fertilizer companies in the joint sector; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL): (a) There is no proposal by the Central Government to set up new fertilizer companies in the joint sector.

(b) Does not arise.

Electoral Reforms

511. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO: SHRIMATI KRISHNA KAUL:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 8 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 29th April, 1985 and state:

(a) whether Government have recently received any report from the Election Commission making a number of recommendations to cleanse the electoral process of malpractices; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI ASOKE KUMAR SEN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Taking into account the experience gained during the elections to Lok Sabha held in December last and to State Assemblies in March this year, the Commission has taken stock of the situation and its fresh recommendations are contained in the Second Annual Report (pages 77-84) which was laid on the Table of the House on the 13th May, 1985. Some of the more important recommendations made by the Election Commission are detailed in the attached statement.

Statement

Proposals for Electoral Reforms

(1) *Elimination of non-serious candidates:*

(a) Security deposit may be raised ten times.

(b) A candidate who fails to secure 20 per cent of the valid votes polled may be disqualified.

(c) The minimum number of votes required for refund of security deposit may be increased from one-sixth to one-fourth.

(d) The facilities like priority allotment of telephone connection immunity from requisition of vehicles, subsidised supply of paper for printing posters, etc. will not be available to independent candidates.

(e) Part of the election expenses of candidates sponsored by recognised political parties may be met by the Government in kind through supply of free electoral rolls, subsidization of time bought on AIR/TV according to agreed norms etc.